Shortage of Urea in various States

4016. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the tremendous shortage of urea in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Government are aware that the farmers have bought urea from the black market at very high prices in the recent rabi crop; and

(c) what are the reasons for this shortfall and by when the required quantity of fertilizers would be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer whose movement and distribution is under the partial control of the Government of India (GOI). GOI is responsible for supplying urea up to the state level. It is the responsibility of the state governments to ensure distribution of fertilizers as per local demand within the state. During Rabi 2006-07, about 141.47 LMT of urea was made available in the country against the assessed requirement of 127.08 LMT. The table below gives the details of demand and supply of urea in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during Rabi 2006-07 season:

('000 MT)

State	Demand/Assessed requirement	Supply (Availability)	Sales
Madhya Pradesh	800.00	967.29	894.83
Jharkhand	50.00	61.79	59.21
Chhattisgarh	90.00	213.61	174.10

(b) The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against the offender who indulge in any kind of malpractices.

(c) The availability and sales of urea in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have been higher than the assessed requirement during Rabi 2006-07.